

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 AID-05
/077 W

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R 261530Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0599
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13651

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, MT
SUBJECT: MALTESE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BONN

REFS: A) VALLETTA 2336; B) BONN 13294

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF ON JULY 25, FOREIGN
OFFICE (BLANKENSTEIN) PROVIDED INFORMATION WHICH
SUPPLEMENTS REPORT OF FRG AMBASSADOR (REF A).

2. AT HIS MEETING WITH CHANCELLORY STATE MINISTER
WISCHNEWSKI, ALBELA REACTED SHARPLY UPON BEING INFORMED
THE FRG COULD NOT PROVIDE BUDGETARY AID TOWARD MALTESE
REQUEST FOR \$30 MILLION. WISCHNEWSKI RESPONDED THAT
FRG POSITION WAS QUITE FIRM BUT THAT HE WOULD RAISE
MATTER AGAIN WITH CONCERNED MINISTRIES. TO WISCHNEWSKI'S
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SURPRISE, ABELA CHOOSE NOT TO RECOGNIZE THIS POLITE
TURNDOWN AND ANNOUNCED HE WOULD REMAIN IN BONN TO AWAIT
RESULTS OF 'INTER-MINISTERIAL REVIEW.'

3. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MINTOFF CONTACTED SPD LEADER
HORST EHMKE IN ROME AND EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND
DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE FRG RESPONSE. WISCHNEWSKI,

ADVISED BY EHMKE OF MINTOFF'S CALL, THEN DECIDED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE CHANCELLOR INSTRUCTED WISCHNEWSKI TO REVIEW THE MATTER.

4. AN INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP THEN MET AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRG NOT GO BEYOND IMPROVING THE TERMS AND INCREASING THE GRANT PORTION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AND POSSIBLY marginally INCREASING THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUCH ASSISTANCE (DM 30 MILLION). THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO WISCHNEWSKI WHO MUST NOW DECIDE WHETHER TO TRY FOR MORE OR ADVISE SCHMIDT TO SIGN THE LETTER OUTLINED REF B. A DECISION IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK.

5. ABELA'S SESSION WITH VAN WELL WAS MORE RELAXED THAN HIS MEETING WITH WISCHNEWSKI. VAN WELL EXPLAINED THAT THE FRG COULD NOT PROVIDE GRANT BUDGETARY AID BUT WAS PREPARED TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EVEN THOUGH MALTA COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. ASKED BY VAN WELL WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ON JULY 31 IN THE ABSENCE OF A WESTERN RESPONSE TO MINTOFF'S DEMAND FOR \$30 MILLION, ABELA SAID MALTA WOULD DECLARE A NON-ALIGNED POLICY BASED ON "TWO ANCHORS" I.E., LIBYA AND ALGERIA.

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6. THE GERMANS NOTED WITH INTEREST A REMARK BY ABELA THAT LIBYA WAS PREPARED TO MATCH EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THE FIGURE OF \$30 MILLION. HE DID NOT SAY WHAT THE LIBYANS WOULD DO IF THE WEST PAID NOTHING.
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